

ackerlady@msn.com
08/02/2005 06:24 PM To
OPP Docket@EPA
cc

bcc

Subject
Fumigants: OPP-2005-1023, -0124, -0125, and -0128

EPA Fumigant cluster assessment

Dear EPA Fumigant cluster assessment,

I am writing to urge EPA to phase out use of toxic soil fumigants. Fumigants are prone to drift through the air and contaminate ground water. Many workers and community residents--including children and the elderly--have experienced acute illness from exposure to these chemicals, with symptoms including nausea, vomiting, dizziness, tremors, asthma and severe respiratory irritation. Chronic illnesses such as cancer, birth defects and permanent neurological damage have been linked to exposure to these chemicals as well. Continued widespread use of soil fumigants damages human health and the environment and does not move agriculture toward true sustainability. We can and must do better than this.

EPA should phase out use of this outdated technology and instead work with USDA to:

- 1) Support research into modern pest control methods that utilize our knowledge of soil pest biology and pest-resistant varieties.
- 2) Provide outreach to farmers to assist them in the transition to farming practices that do not harm people and the environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical public health issue. I look forward to hearing your response to this important health issue.

Sincerely,

Beverly Ackerman
355 Bodmer Lane
Santa Rosa, California 95404